

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for neutralizing, by controlled gas injection, liquid slug formation or accumulation at the foot of a pipe portion greatly inclined to the horizontal or riser connected to a pipe carrying circulating multiphase fluids, characterized in that comprising:

measuring, at the bottom of the riser, the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids; and

injecting, at the base of the riser, a volume of gas substantially proportional to the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids, when this variation is positive, is injected at the base of the riser.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for neutralizing, by controlled gas injection, liquid slug formation or accumulation at the foot of a substantially vertical pipe portion or riser connected to a pipe carrying circulating multiphase fluids as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a the injected volume of gas is substantially equal to the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids, when this variation is positive, is injected at the base of the riser.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said injected volume of gas is modulated by a quantity proportional to the flow rate variation of the liquid phase of the circulating fluids.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids, measured at a previous time interval, is injected at a time t.

5. (Original) A device for neutralizing, by controlled gas injection, liquid slug formation or accumulation at the foot of a pipe portion greatly inclined to the horizontal or riser connected to a pipe carrying circulating multiphase fluids, comprising gas injection means connected to the base of the riser, means for measuring the flow rate of the gas phase of the circulating fluids and a computer intended to control injection, by the injection means, of a volume of gas substantially proportional to the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids, when this variation is positive.

6. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the computer is suited to control injection, by the injection means, of a volume of gas substantially equal to the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids.

7. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 5, comprising means for measuring the flow rate of the liquid phase circulating in the pipe, the computer being suited to modulate the injected volume of gas by a quantity proportional to the measured flow rate variation of the liquid phase.

8. (New) A device as claimed in claim 6, comprising means for measuring the flow rate of the liquid phase circulating in the pipe, the computer being suited to modulate the injected volume of gas by a quantity proportional to the measured flow rate variation of the liquid phase.

9. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said injected volume of gas is modulated by a quantity proportional to the flow rate variation of the liquid phase of the circulating fluids.

10. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids, measured at a previous time interval, is injected at a time t.